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SUPERMAN BEYOND

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GRANT MORRISON

DOUG MAHNKE

CHRISTIAN ALAMY

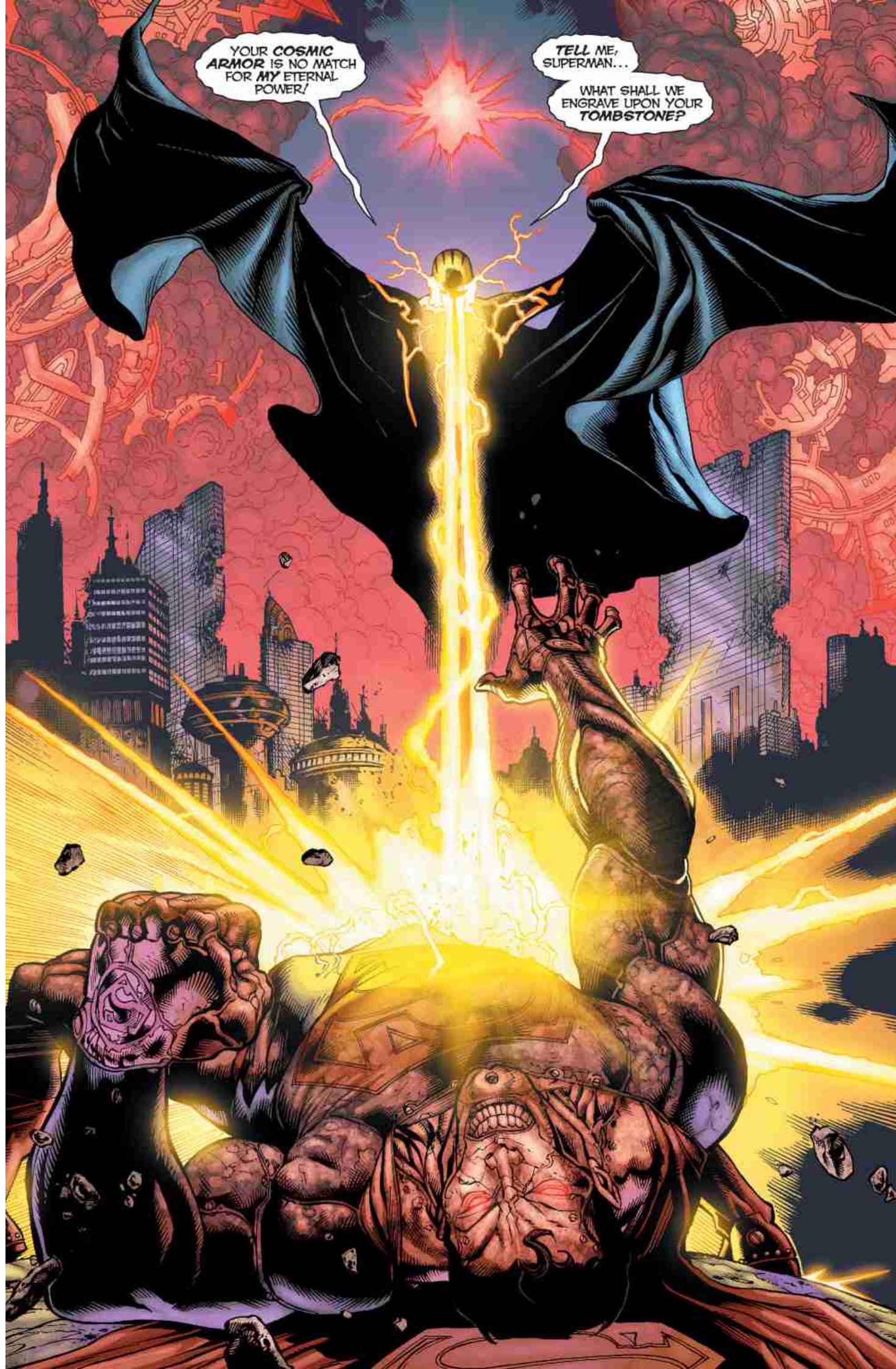
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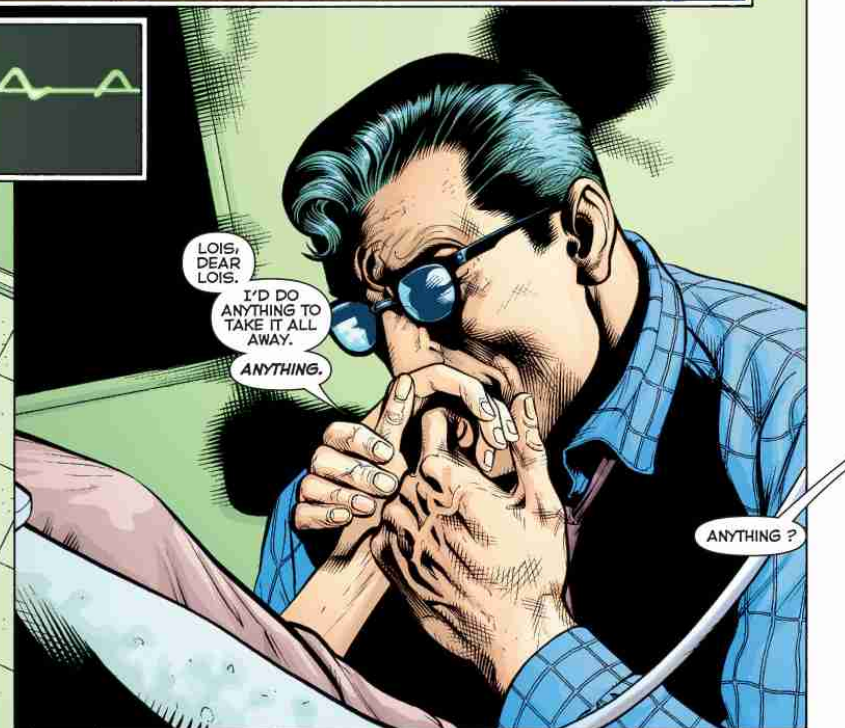
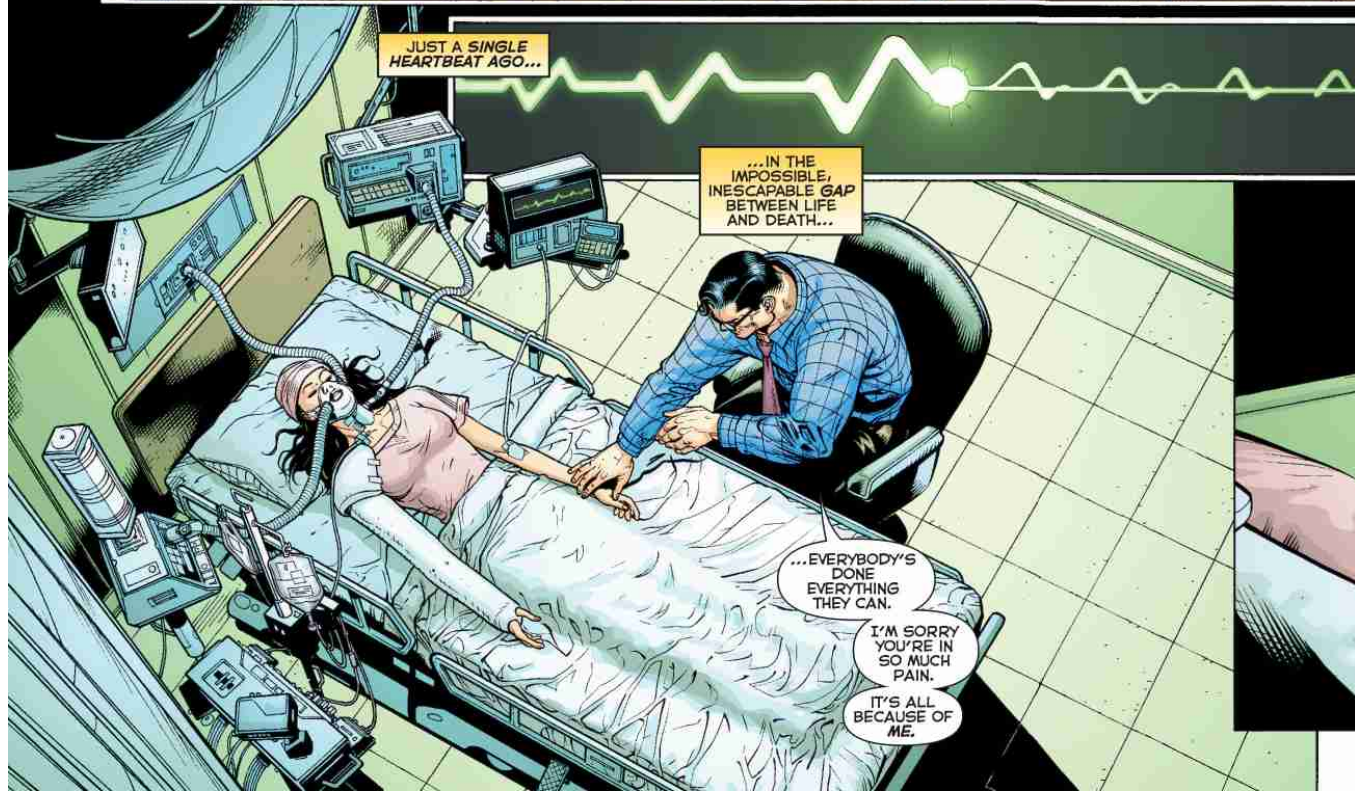
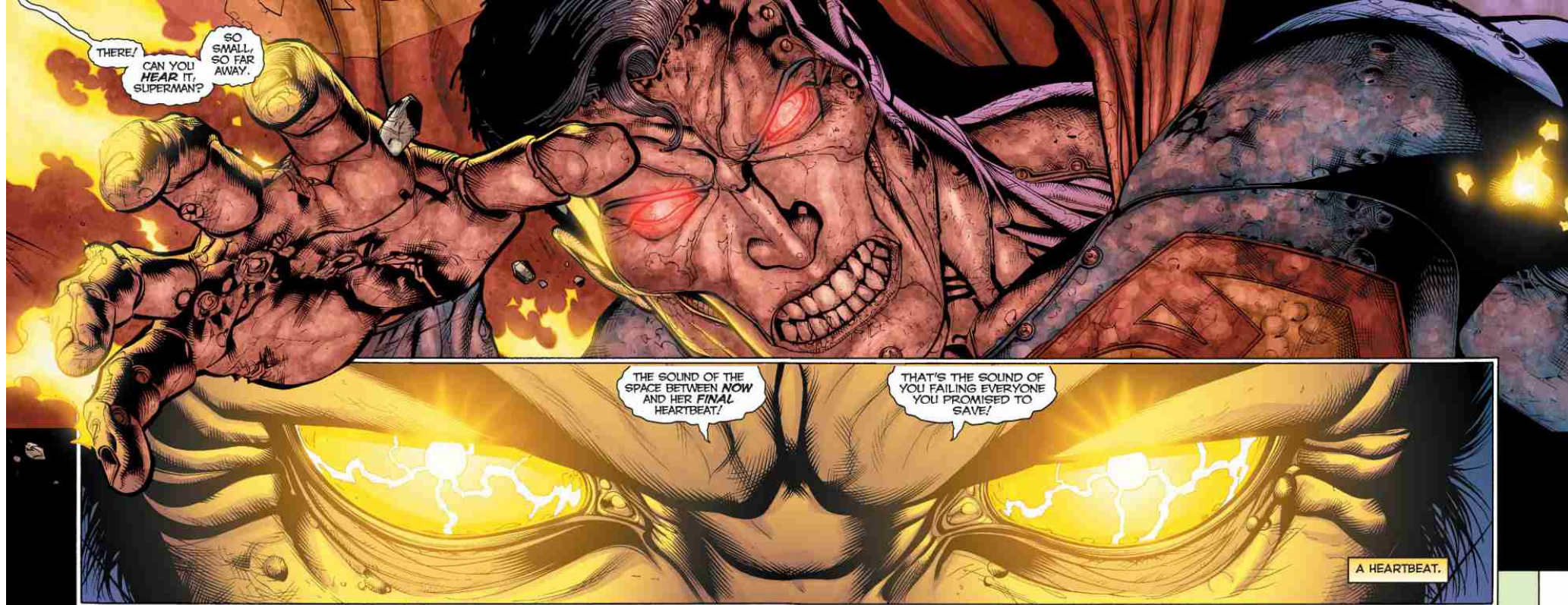


YOUR COSMIC
ARMOR IS NO MATCH
FOR MY ETERNAL
POWER!

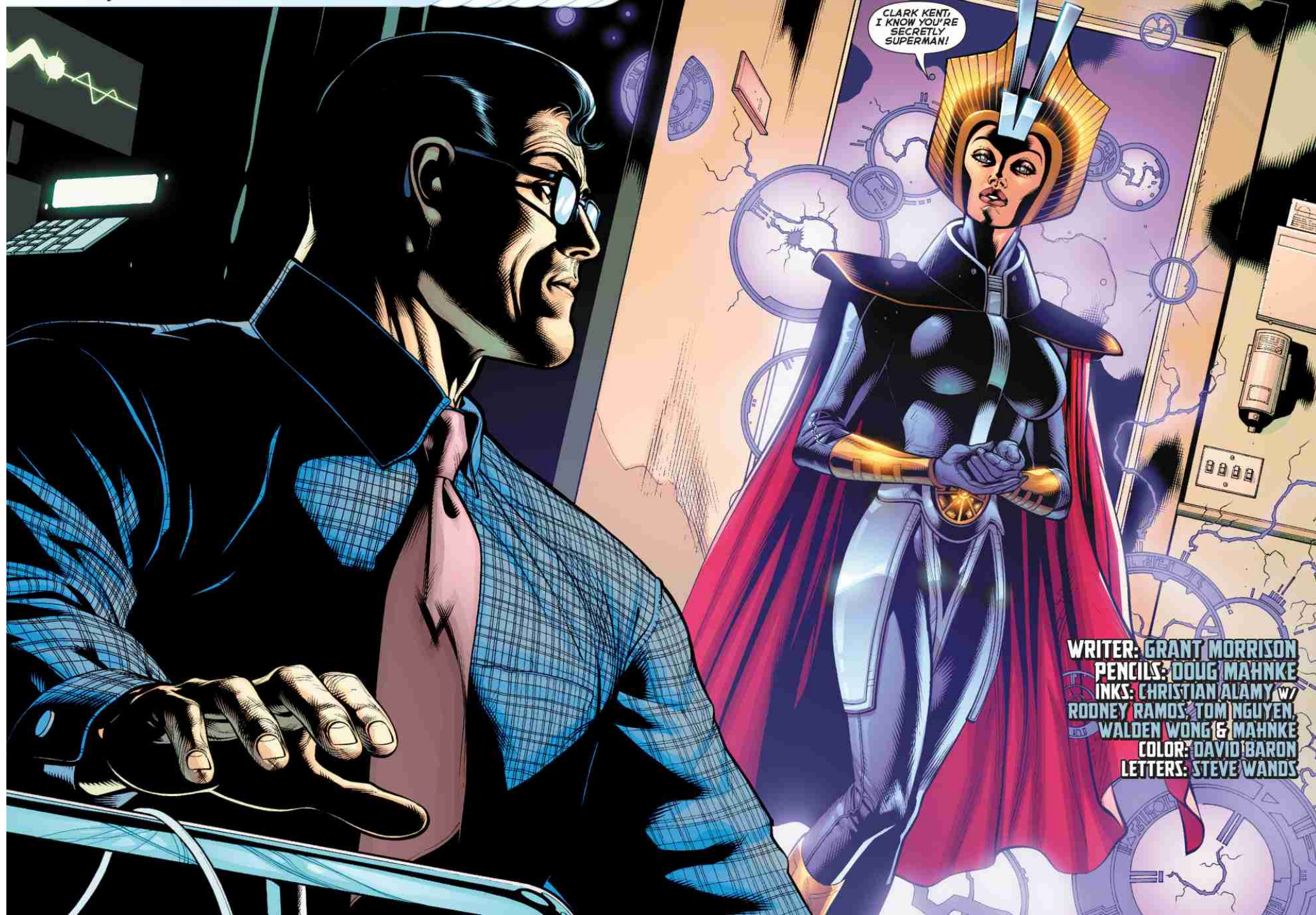
TELL ME,
SUPERMAN...

WHAT SHALL WE
ENGRAVE UPON YOUR
TOMBSTONE?





SUPERMAN BEYOND



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RODNEY RAMOS, TOM NGUYEN,
WALDEN WONG & MAHNKE
COLOR: DAVID BARON
LETTERS: STEVE WANDS

FOR ONE TERRIBLE
MOMENT IT SEEMS AS
THOUGH LOIS HAS
STOPPED *BREATHING*.

WHAT?

BUT IT'S
TIME.

TIME HAS
STOPPED.

CAUGHT ON A RAGGED
INBREATH, HER LIFE
HAS HIT PAUSE.

OUTSIDE, ...
400 MILLION
RAINDROPS
HANG IN
PERFECT
SUSPENSION.

THE WHOLE PERFECT
STRUCTURE OF
EXISTENCE IS RINGING
LIKE A WINE GLASS.

LOIS.

IF I
DON'T
STAY WITH
MY WIFE,
SHE'LL
DIE.

MY INFRA-
RED MASSAGE
IS ALL THAT'S
KEEPING HER HEART
ALIVE AFTER THE
SHRAPNEL WAS
REMOVED.

NOT EVEN
PURPLE RAY
TECHNOLOGY
CAN HELP.

I KNOW
EVERYTHING
ABOUT YOU.

I OFFER YOU
ONE ULTIMATE
CHANCE TO SAVE
HER!

BUT WE MUST
LEAVE THIS WORLD
NOW BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE!

EACH REFLECTING THE OTHER, AND
THE CITY AND EVERYTHING BEYOND.

IN THE FINAL
MOMENTS OF A
CIVILIZATION'S
CATASTROPHIC
DECLINE, I
EMBARKED UPON
MY DESPERATE
MISSION!

TO RECRUIT
THE GREATEST
SUPER-CHAMPIONS
OF THE
MULTIVERSE!

FOR IF OUR
WORLD DIES, ALL
EXISTENCE DIES
WITH US!







4-D VISION?

WELL WITHIN YOUR SUPERIOR OPTICAL RANGE.

YOUR ABILITY TO SEE 4-D PERSPECTIVE WILL MOST LIKELY DEVELOP SPONTANEOUSLY WHEN REQUIRED, AS IT DID WITH THE OTHERS.



THESE "OTHERS"...

SOMETHING'S WRONG!

CAST OFF!

WEIGH ANCHOR!



WIR WERDEN VERLUSTE HINNEHMEN MÜSSEN!

DIESE MASCHINE WIRD GLEICH EXPLODIEREN!



ONLY THE SPEED OF MERCURY IS GETTING ME THROUGH THIS!

HOLY MOLEY!

WHAT A WAY TO FLY A SHIP.



...THE MULTIVERSE NEEDS NO DESIGNER... IT HAS A DISTINCTIVE EMERGENT STRUCTURE...NOT A MACHINE...MORE LIKE A...PLANT OR...A SYMPHONY...



DOWN!

I'M ALREADY SEARCHING FOR THE SOURCE OF THE ATTACK FROM NOWHERE-- X-RAY VISION, TELESCOPIC VISION, RADIO VISION.

BUT SHE WAS RIGHT: THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PROCESS WHAT I'M SEEING.



4-D VISION UPGRADE.

GREAT KRYPTON!

ARTERIES.



BETWEEN
UNIVERSES.



"EARTH-13
TO EARTH-6
CORRECT," I HEAR
THE MAN WITH
CHROME SKIN
MUTTER.

THE IMMENSE DEATH
RAY EYE OF THE *THING*
THAT'S CHASING US
BEGINS TO WEEP, AND
CRACKS.



SOMETHING IS
TRYING TO *KILL*
THE DESTROYER
"ECHO OF
MIDNIGHT."

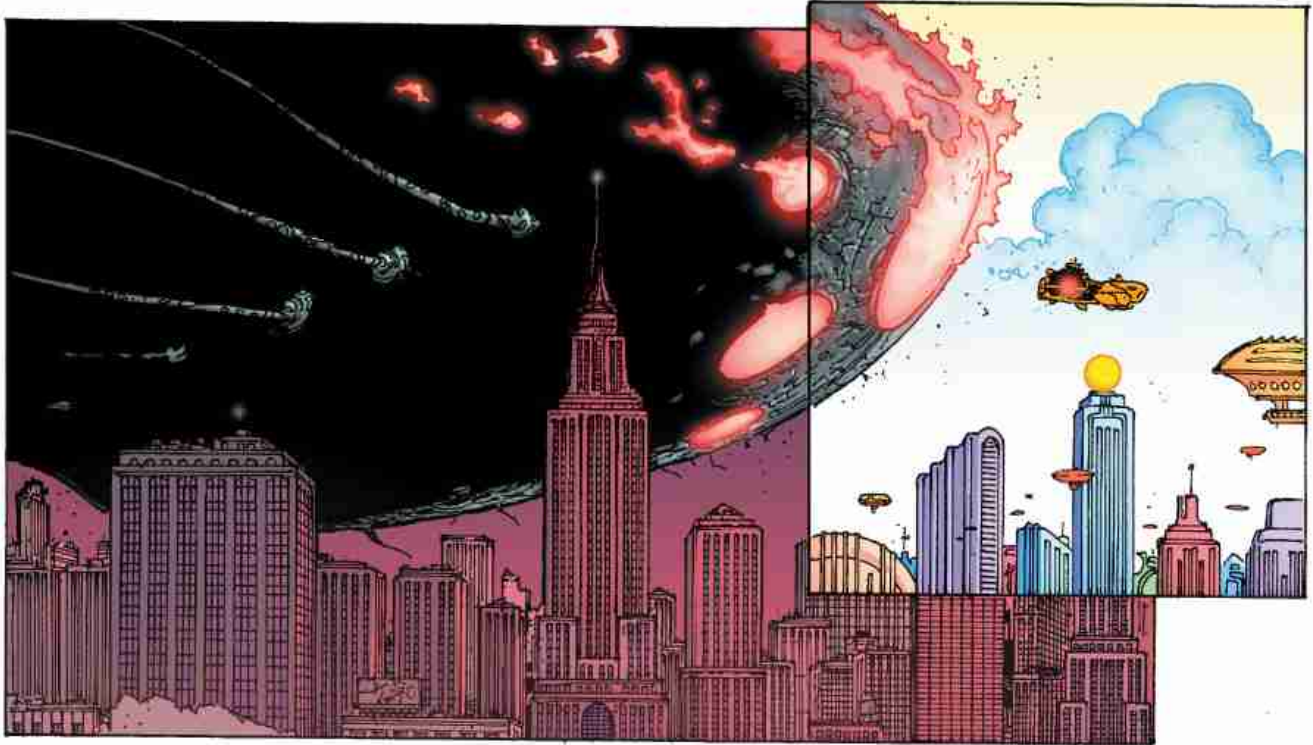
I TELESCOPE IN
TO THE FURNACE
EDGE AND THERE
HE IS.

USING WHATEVER
HE FINDS AS A
WEAPON, A TOOL
OF DESTRUCTION.



ULTRAMAN.





EARTH-20.

I CAN SMELL
CIGARETTE SMOKE,
NEWSPRINT AND
COTTON CANDY.

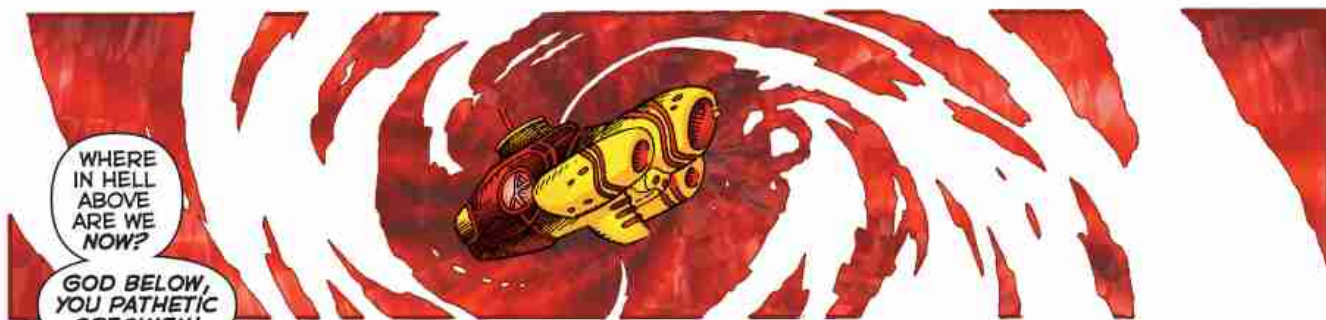
2,327,694,748
HUMAN LIVES.

IN MY
HANDS.

NOW EARTH-17 ROLLS
BENEATH ME, BURNING
WITH RADIOACTIVITY
AND HOPE.

CAN'T
HOLD IT ANY
LONGER...





WHERE
IN HELL
ABOVE
ARE WE
NOW?

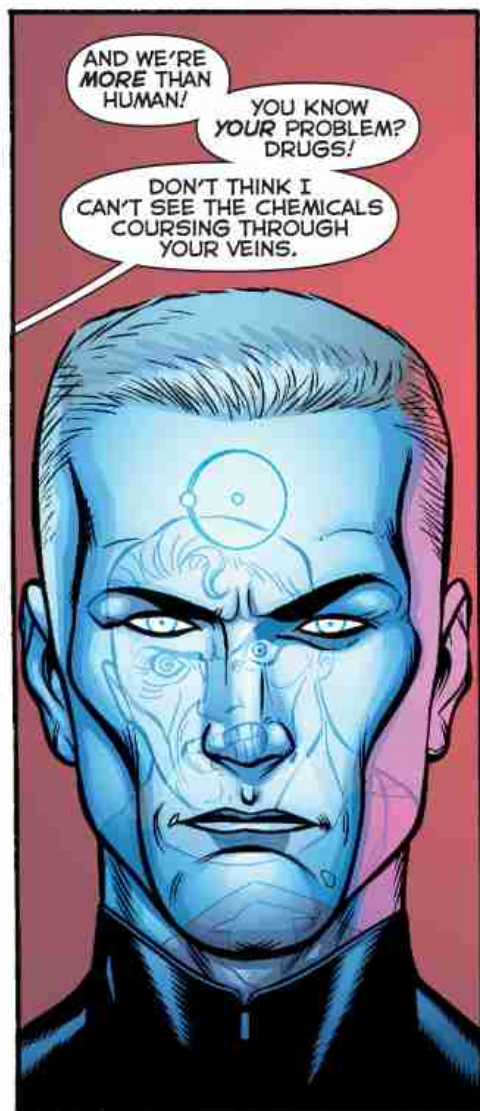
GOD BELOW,
YOU PATHETIC
SPECIMEN!

WHAT WERE
YOU DOING WHILE WE
WERE RISKING OUR
NECKS?

BONDING WITH THE
ONBOARD A.I.

THERE ARE
10 YOTTABYTES
OF DATA PERTAINING
TO MULTIVERSAL
NAVIGATION
ALONE.

THE HUMAN
BRAIN HAS PROCESSING
CAPACITY AVAILABLE FOR ONLY
100 TRILLION INSTRUCTIONS
PER SECOND...



AND WE'RE
MORE THAN
HUMAN!

YOU KNOW
YOUR PROBLEM?
DRUGS!

DON'T THINK I
CAN'T SEE THE CHEMICALS
COURSING THROUGH
YOUR VEINS.

WE'VE ALL BEEN
RECRUITED FROM
DIFFERENT
...FREQUENCIES.

WE'RE ALL
EXPERIENCING
WORLDWIDE CRISES
BACK HOME.

BUT RIGHT
NOW WE NEED
TO WORK
TOGETHER.

DIDN'T SHE
PROMISE
US ALL
THE SAME
ULTIMATE
TREASURE,
HUH?

"ULTIMATE"
MEANS ONE
MAN, ONE
TREASURE!

THAT
MAKES US
ALL RIVALS
FOR THE
PRIZE!



THE GLOWING
SPARK THAT POWERS
THIS CRAFT THROUGH
THE OVERVOID...

...IS MY
HEART.

WE ARE
DRIFTING, INTO THE
VOID... AND THERE IS BUT
ONE WAY TO REPLENISH
THAT BEATING ENGINE,
OVERMAN...

GROSSE
KRYPTON!



WE'RE ALL BEING MANIPULATED BY THIS SCHEMING WITCH!

YOU LILY-LIVERED DO-GOODERS CAN'T SEE IT, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS TO ME!

AND AS FOR YOU: I PROMISED I'D GET EVEN WITH YOU, REMEMBER?

MONITOR CLASSIFICATION GIVES EACH UNIVERSE A NUMBER, COORDINATES.



WATCH YOUR BACK!
YOU HEAR?

EASY!
TAKE IT EASY.

EMPTY THREATS, ULTRAMAN.

IF WE SO MUCH AS TOUCH, THE RESULTING EXPLOSION WILL ANNIHILATE US BOTH.

YOU VALUE YOUR OWN HIDE WAY TOO MUCH FOR THAT.



ULTRAMAN, MY COUNTERPART FROM AN ANTIMATTER COPY OF THE EARTH-- HIS PURSUIT OF CORRUPTION AS TIRELESS AS MY DEDICATION TO JUSTICE.



ONE DAY I'LL FIND MY WAY TO YOUR PERFECT SUNLIT PUFFBALL OF A WORLD, MARVEL...

I'VE SEEN OFF BIGGER, UGLIER BULLIES THAN YOU.

CAPTAIN MARVEL OF EARTH-5: FROM A SIMPLER, KINDER UNIVERSE THAN THE MARVEL FAMILY I KNOW BACK HOME...



OVERMAN, GUILT-RIDDEN CHAMPION OF EARTH 10, WHERE NAZIS WON THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MUSIC?

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARD THE GREAT SAD MUSIC?

ALLE DIESE UNIVERSEN DIE IN VERSCHIEDENEN FREQUENZEN VIBRIEREN

ON HIS WORLD, ENGLISH IS A DEAD LANGUAGE, WHICH HE SPEAKS RELUCTANTLY, ENUNCIATING EACH WORD.



AND AIR FORCE CAPTAIN ALLEN ADAM, THE "QUANTUM SUPERMAN" OF EARTH 4, IN A CONDENSED UNIVERSE WHERE THE LAWS OF PHYSICS ARE DIFFERENT.

THE MUSIC'S OVER: WE'VE RUN OUT OF MULTIVERSE.

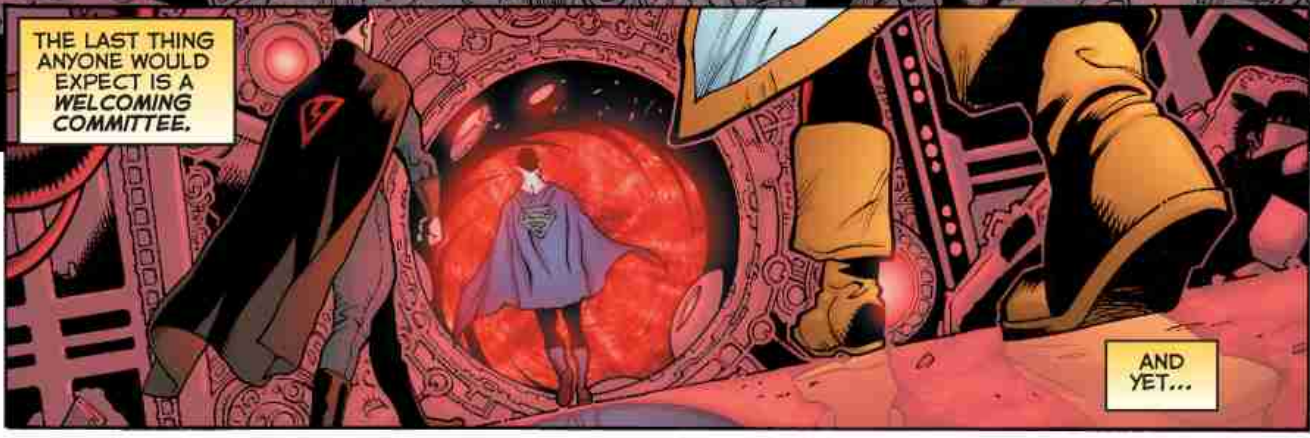
WE'RE OFF THE CHARTS.

THE PLACE WE JUST ARRIVED... IS NOWHERE...



WE'RE ABOUT AS LOST AS ANYONE CAN BE.

BEACHED ON THE SHORES OF OBLIVION.



THE LAST THING ANYONE WOULD EXPECT IS A WELCOMING COMMITTEE.

AND YET...



HOWDY, FOLKS.

WELCOME TO LIMBO.

SO GOOD YOU'LL NEVER WANT TO LEAVE!



JOKE.

ACTUALLY YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE.

IN A CRACKED, BRIGHT VOICE, HE TELLS US HIS NAME IS MERRYMAN, THE KING OF LIMBO.

A SUPERHERO ONCE, HE SAYS, UNTIL THE WORLD FORGOT HIM AND HE WOUND UP... NOWHERE, ALONG WITH ALL THESE OTHERS...

IS THIS... IS THIS WHAT HAPPENS TO US WHEN WE DIE?



HE EXPLAINS
THE RULES OF
LIMBO...

KINGS AND THEIR
SUBJECTS GET EXACTLY
THE SAME SHABBY
TREATMENT SO HIS TITLE
IS WORTHLESS.

THERE ARE
NO HEROES.

AND
NOTHING
EVER
HAPPENS.



WAS IST
DAS?

ICH KANN
MICH NICHT DARAN
ERINNERN WIESO
ICH DAS MACHE;
DIE GANZE
TECHNIK IST FÜR
DEN HUND.

THIS IS
WHAT I WAS
LOOKING
FOR!

THIS SHARD
FROM THE ROCK
OF ETERNITY WAS
BROKEN OFF IN
MY CLIMACTIC
BATTLE WITH...
WITH...

...WITH
ONE OF MY
ENEMIES...

MARVEL,
WE STAY HERE
TOO LONG, WE
LOSE OUR
MEMORIES.



OH, IT'S
MUCH WORSE
THAN THAT.

ARE YOU
KIDDING?

SOON YOU'LL
DISAPPEAR FROM
EVERYONE ELSE'S
MEMORIES TOO,
LIKE I DID!



NO, THERE
HAS TO BE A
WAY OUT.

I WON'T LET
MY WIFE DOWN, OR
ANYBODY ELSE.

WHAT'S IN
THERE?

OH,
NOTHING WORTH
LOOKING AT.

LIBRARY OF
LIMBO... BELIEVE
ME, NOBODY GOES
THERE!

SERIOUSLY, NOTHING
HAPPENS IN LIMBO WHICH
MEANS THERE ARE NO SUCH
THINGS AS STORIES SO...
I'M SORRY...

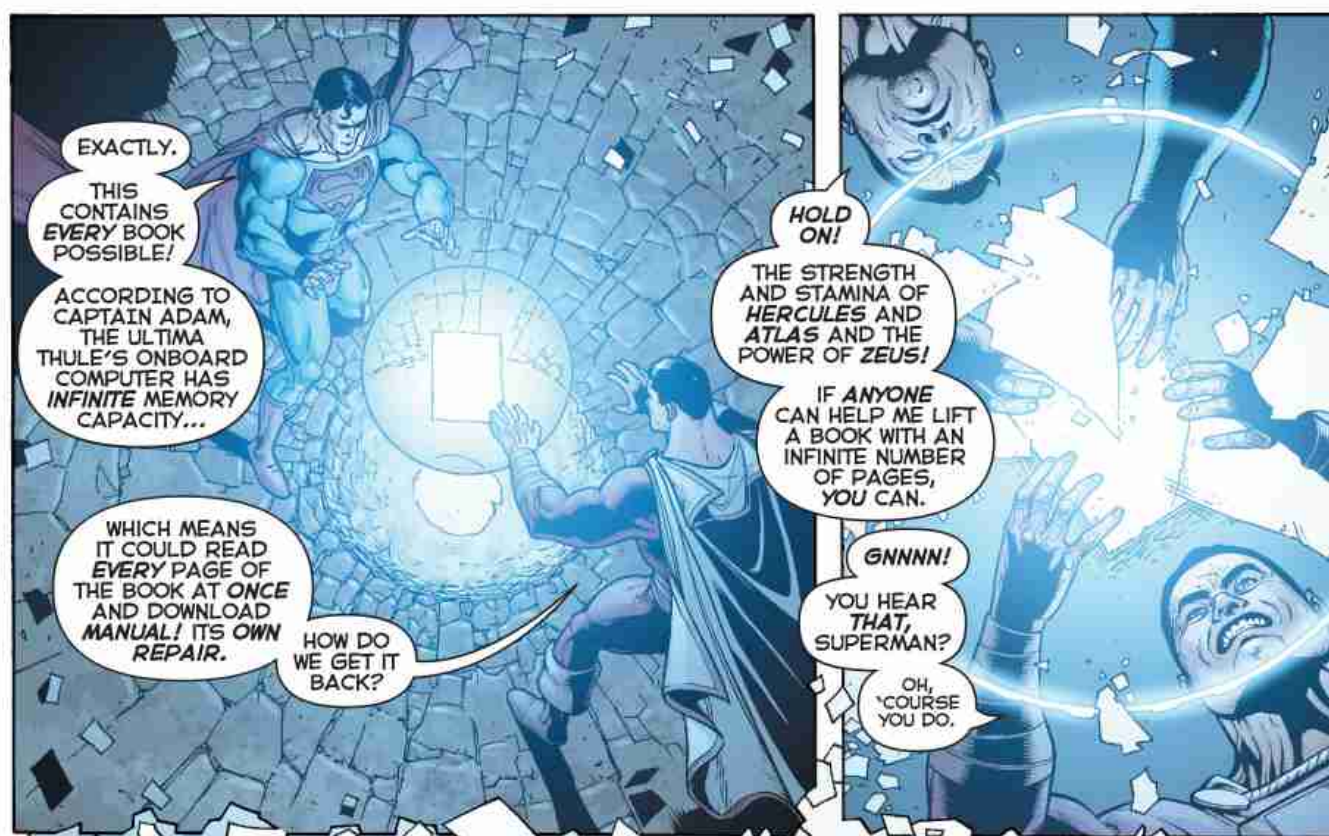


THE NEWS
ABOUT YOUR WIFE
BREAKS MY HEART,
BUT SOMETIMES
YOU JUST HAVE TO
ACCEPT THAT
MAYBE YOU'RE
WASTING YOUR
TIME.

THAT'S IF
WE EVEN HAD
SUCH A THING
AS TIME TO
WASTE.

THE
LIBRARY
OF LIMBO
HAS ONLY
ONE BOOK
AND NO
ONE CAN
READ IT!

SHOW
ME.



PREVIOUSLY!

THERE WAS
MONITOR
ONLY!

AND
THEN!

THEN IS
A FLAW FOUND
AT THE HEART
OF MONITOR
PERFECTION!



MONITOR
MAKES A
CONCEPT
TO CONTAIN
THE FLAW!

MONITOR
EXAMINATION REVEALS
WITHIN TERRIFYING,
UNFORESEEN
COMPLEXITIES AND
CONTRADICTIONS!

MAGNIFICATION
REVEALS A STRUCTURE
OF INFINITESIMAL
RIPPLING MANIFOLDS
UPON WHOSE SURFACE
INTRICATE GERM-LIKE
PROCESSES THRIVE
AND MULTIPLY!



GRAAHH... FEED-BACK'S MAKING MY SKULL RING, SUPERMAN!

SOME KIND OF ABSTRACT INFINITE INTELLIGENCE, THE BIGGEST LIFE FORM I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

A CONSCIOUS, LIVING VOID!

WITH OUR ENTIRE MULTIVERSE GROWING INSIDE IT.

THIS MONITOR... IT'S TOO IMMENSE TO IMAGINE!

HOW CAN SOMETHING BE BIGGER THAN UNIVERSES?



THERE'S ACTUALLY ONLY ONE STORY, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.

LUCKILY IT'S GOT ALL THE OTHERS IN IT!

SO WHY CAN'T I SEE ANYTHING?

WE'RE READING SOME KIND OF PRIMAL ORIGIN STORY OF ZILLO VALLA'S KIND, THE RACE OF MONITORS.

BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST...



MONITOR EXTENDS A PROBE!...

DESIGNED TO BLEND WITH ITS SURROUNDINGS, THE PROBE SECURES CONTACT!...

...WITH SOMETHING MONITOR HAS NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED!

INSIDE THE FLAW--A CHAOTIC FROTH OF EVENTS!



LIVES. DEATHS. HEROES. VILLAINS. LOVERS.

STORIES!

WITH NO
PRECEDENT FOR
THE CONCEPT
"STORY"!!...

...NO UNDERSTANDING
OF THE DAMAGE "STORY"
MIGHT DO TO AN IMMENSE
AWARENESS WITHOUT LIMITS
OR DEFINITION!...

...MONITOR
HAS ZERO
DEFENSES!

BLINDED,
SPLIT IN TWO,
THE PROBE
WITHDRAWS!

THE FLAW
IS SEALED,
SCABBED OVER.
WITH DIVINE
METALS!

MADE
SAFE.

UNTIL ALL
THAT REMAINS OF
THAT ILL-FATED
FIRST CONTACT IS
A VAST, UNCANNY
FORM!

THE MYSTERY
OF THE SILENT SENTINEL
HAUNTS MONITOR, INFECTS
THE IMMACULATE INTELLIGENCE
WITH QUESTIONS,
SPECULATIONS, PESTILENTIAL,
CRAWLING NARRATIVES.

LEGEND TAKES
ROOT...AND STORY,
LIKE CONTAGION,
SPREADS
UNCHECKED!



BECOMES
THIS HISTORY OF A
ONCE-MIGHTY RACE OF
HYPER-GODS, DIRECT
DESCENDANTS OF THE
FIRST IMMENSE,
UNKNOWNABLE
MONITOR!

THIS EPIC
ELEGY FOR A DOOMED
CIVILIZATION, DECLINING
FROM SPLENDOR TO
SQUALOR.

THIS
FINAL
CRISIS.

THIS LAST-DITCH
ATTEMPT TO SAVE
CREATION ITSELF FROM
A LOATHING AND
GREED BEYOND
MEASURE!

AFTER EXTENSIVE
STUDY, THE CIRCLE
OF MONITORS MAKES
ITS EVALUATION.

BUT
FIRST...EONS
PASS OF PEACE
AND PLENTY WHILE
THE HAUNTING
RELIC OF FIRST
CONTACT RUSTS,
NEGLECTED!

IT HAS
ALWAYS BEEN,
IT WILL ALWAYS
BE.

YET ITS
SHADOW
GROWS EVER
LONGER, EVER
COLDER IN A
DEEPENING
TWILIGHT.

IT CAN
ONLY BE A
WEAPON.

A DOOMSDAY
MACHINE
ENGINEERED BY
GENIUS TO DEFEND
US AGAINST SOME
ULTIMATE
ENEMY.



DREAD OF
THE THING
GROWS.

RUMOR
SPREADS.

ONLY ON THE
LAST DAY WILL
IT YIELD UP ITS
SECRETS, IT
IS SAID.

ONLY THEN
WILL THE STORY
OF NOVU'S
FINAL GIFT BE
UNDERSTOOD.



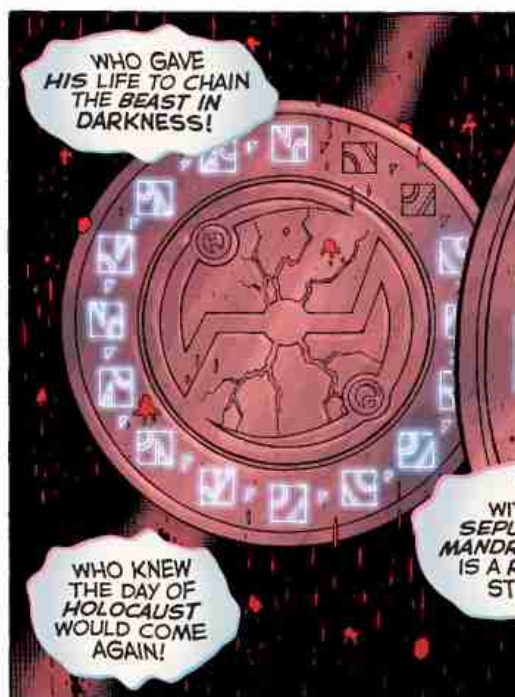
DAX NOVU.
THE RADIANT
ONE, THE FIRST
SON OF MONITOR
AND BRAVEST OF
THE SCIENCE
GODS.



NOVU, WHOSE
BRILLIANT, REBEL
INTELLECT FIRST
PROBED THE FLAW
AND MAPPED ITS
HORRORS.

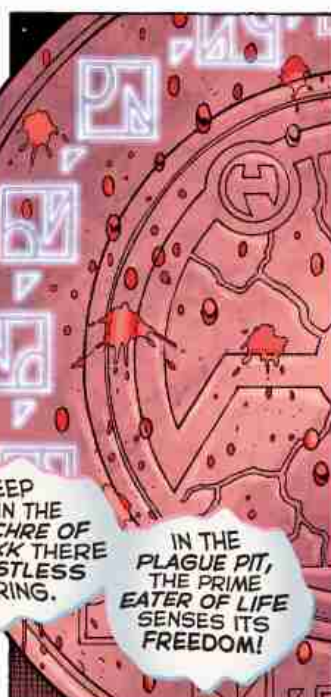
WHO WRESTLED
THE ANGEL OF
CONTAMINATION!

WHO BROUGHT
KNOWLEDGE AND
THE RICHES OF
THE BLEED!



WHO GAVE
HIS LIFE TO CHAIN
THE BEAST IN
DARKNESS!

WHO KNEW
THE DAY OF
HOLOCAUST
WOULD COME
AGAIN!



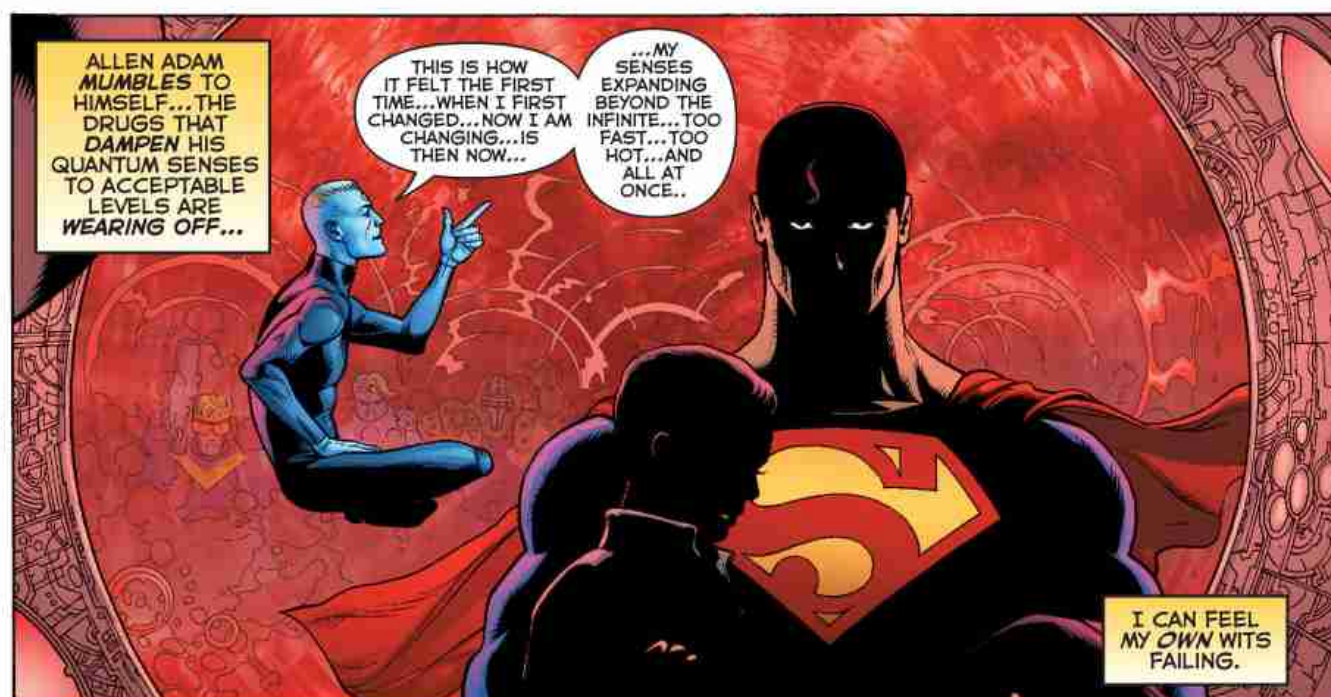
DEEP
WITHIN THE
SEPOLCHRE OF
MANDRAKK THERE
IS A RESTLESS
STIRRING.

IN THE
PLAGUE PIT,
THE PRIME
EATER OF LIFE
SENSES ITS
FREEDOM!



AN
UNSTOPPABLE
COUNTDOWN
TO COSMIC
REVELATION
HAS BEGUN!







I HAVE
TO ACT.

ZILLO
VALLA!

WHO SENT
THAT DESTROYER
AFTER US?

WHO IS
MANDRAKK!



AHHHH.

YOU
SAW THAT
NAME IN A
BOOK?

WHAT
FORBIDDEN
BLACK
GOSPEL WAS
THAT?

GREAT
KRYPTON!

OVERMAN!



LIKE YOU, HE PROMISED
HE'D GIVE *ANYTHING* IN
HIS QUEST TO FIND HIS
BELOVED COUSIN.

SO I
TOOK HIS
LIFE'S
BLOOD,
TO SAVE
US ALL.

AS FOR
THAT NAME,
I TRIED TO
SPARE YOU
THE TRUE
HORROR
OF THE
HATRED THAT
THREATENS
ALL
EXISTENCE.

I TRIED
SO HARD
TO MAKE
A GOOD
END.

BUT
THE DARK
MONITOR HAS
RISEN.

MANDRAKK
WAKES.



CARRIERS,
DESTROYERS, TANKERS
AND EXPLORERS...

VAST IN SCALE FROM
YOUR PERSPECTIVE, THESE
MACHINES ARE MERE MONITOR
NANOTECHNOLOGY!

THE EYES OF
MANDRAKK.

SUPERMAN!

COME
QUICKLY!



ALL IS
LOST.

HE'S
FOUND
US.

THE
SKY.

THE SKY JUST...
SHATTERED.



I HAVE
THE PROOF,
HERE IN THIS
BOOK!

EVIL TRIUMPHS,
SUPERMAN, AND
THERE'S NOTHING
YOU CAN DO
ABOUT IT!

**EVIL
WINS IN THE
END!**

YOU CANNOT MISS SUPERMAN BEYOND #2 COMING SOON!